

Balance sheet

2020-2022

Implementation of commitments

made by participating companies

*act*4nature
international

summary

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Introduction

In 2018, a consortium made up of numerous partners from various business networks, the scientific field, environmental associations, and public authorities launched the act4nature international scheme, with the aim of preserving, enhancing and restoring biodiversity and mobilising businesses around their direct and indirect impacts on nature, as well as their opportunities for nature-friendly actions. The act4nature international voluntary initiative was launched to encourage companies to make voluntary commitments, and to highlight concrete, SMART actions in favour of biodiversity.

Over the past five years, the act4nature international initiative has been the driving force behind several significant advances. It has succeeded in raising awareness and mobilising international corporate executives and operational managers. It has raised the profile of French companies on a global scale by showcasing their methods, actions and solutions aimed at supporting the achievement of the objectives of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by 196 nations.

These voluntary corporate commitments have raised expectations among stakeholders as to their actual implementation. Hence, it is imperative to publicly disclose these actions to uphold the credibility of the commitments and the scheme, as well as to foster effective communication between companies and their stakeholders on this subject. Three years after the publication of the last assessment report on the implementation of commitments made by 70 companies for the 2018- 2020 period, act4nature international is publishing the overall assessment for the 2020-2022 period.

This assessment not only assessed the degree of commitment achievement but also scrutinized the verification practices undertaken by an Independent Third-Party Organisation (ITPO), thereby enhancing the credibility of the reports. An impressive 92% of the companies participating in the act4nature international global report campaign submitted individual reports, indicating a strong level of engagement. We anticipate that the release of this assessment on the implementation of corporate commitments for the period 2020-2022 will facilitate constructive dialogue with stakeholders and inspire a greater ambition in their biodiversity-focused initiatives. Our aim is to promote continuous improvement and expand the roster of committed companies.

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I. History and operation

Since its inception in 2018, **partners of act4nature - comprising business networks, environmental NGOs, public bodies, and scientific partners** - have collaboratively refined its original framework to align with evolving international stakes in biodiversity. Companies operating within France are steered towards the **Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature (EEN)⁽¹⁾ initiative overseen by the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB)**, while the international arm of act4nature targets French-based companies with international activities. **These companies are presented with the opportunity to embed biodiversity considerations throughout their strategies and operations, spanning the entire value chain. Consequently, they can establish tangible commitments for nature preservation and restoration** in accordance with the new global biodiversity framework for the post-2020 era.

As a reminder, companies participating in act4nature international have submitted commitments through **commitment sequences** facilitated by the scheme's secretariat. These commitments undergo scrutiny by members of the **Partner Review Committee⁽²⁾**, comprising representatives from the aforementioned organisations. Feedback gathered by the secretariat during dedicated sessions is relayed to the respective companies, empowering them to refine their commitments. Subsequently, these refined commitments are presented to a **Steering Committee, composed of partner reviewers, collaborating partners, and participating companies within the scheme⁽³⁾**. A time is set aside for interactions between companies and proofreading partners facilitating a thorough understanding of the suggested enhancements proposed by the **proofreading partner committee**. These Steering Committee meetings serve as a platform for companies to articulate their aspirations, initiatives, and rationale for participation in the scheme, fostering a space for dialogue and knowledge-sharing. At the end of this dedicated time, the Steering Committee members collectively assess the **SMART⁽⁴⁾** nature of the commitments submitted by the companies. Furthermore, companies engaged in the scheme are invited to observe the session.

To be recognised as SMART, the **10 common commitments⁽⁵⁾** and the **individual commitments must be signed by the head of each company**.

1 <https://engagespourlanature.ofb.fr/entreprises>

2 Appendix 3

3 See back cover

4 SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound - Appendix 2

5 Appendix 1

In addition, since the beginning of 2023, companies have been asked to include the following elements in their commitments:

- 1** Main findings of the environmental materiality analysis;
- 2** Articulation with previous commitments and explanation of the continuous improvement dynamic;
- 3** "*Comply or explain*" principle: unless clarified, each common commitment should be translated into at least one individual commitment.

Individual commitments are then published on the act4nature international website⁶.

Afep, EpE and MEDEF have engaged with companies regarding the information provided to fill in the evaluation grids. This report consolidates the results.

Each evaluation grid is the sole responsibility of the company that has filled it out.



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6 <https://www.act4nature.com/>

II. Balance sheet method

To carry out this assessment, we contacted companies whose commitments for the period 2020-2022 had come to an end. A reporting grid, devised and approved by the act4nature international Steering Committee, was dispatched to these **59 companies**. They were asked to provide information on the status of their individual commitments at the end of 2022, given that these commitments had expired between 2020 and 2022.

This grid is structured around three categories of information:

- 1** The list of individual commitments slated for 2020-2022 (inclusive of title, scope, associated indicator or target, deadline or implementation duration) enriched with links connecting these individual commitments with the ten overarching common commitments;
- 2** An evaluation of the actions executed by December 31, 2022, for each commitment (comprising the status of actions, partial or conclusive outcomes achieved, and pertinent comments);
- 3** The communication carried out and, if applicable, the data verification method used to report on this implementation.

Out of the 59 companies contacted, 54 submitted their individual reports to the act4nature international secretariat. These reports were collated and analysed to generate the summary outlined in this document.

A compilation of the grids is available upon request via email at:
engagement@act4nature.com

Individual commitments and completed grids provided by companies can be viewed on the act4nature international website:

<https://www.act4nature.com/entreprises-engagées-2020/>

<https://www.act4nature.com/entreprises-engagées-2018/>

III. Companies involved in the 2020-2022 assessment

The 59 companies included in the review are those with commitments due to expire between 2020 and 2022.

Those in bold did not wish to disclose their results.

ADP	L'Oréal
Arkema	LVMH
Axa	Macif
Groupe Bel	Marsh
BL Evolution	Michelin
BNP Paribas	Natixis
Bolloré Logistics*	Nexity
Bouygues Construction	Paprec
Carrefour	Pierre Fabre
Cérélia	Groupe Renault
Club Med	Groupe Rocher
CLS	RTE
CNES*	Saint-Gobain
Covivio	Scor
Danone	Groupe SEB
Deloitte	Séché Environnement
DiotSiaci	Servier
EDF	SNCF
Emerige	Société Générale
Engie	Solvay
Eramet	Storengy
ERM	Suez
Forvia	Technip Energies
France TV	Thermocoax
Gecina	TotalEnergies
Hermès	Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield
Lafarge Holcim	Veolia
Imerys	Vinci
Kering	Sanofi
Léa Nature	

*Non-member company in 2023

Find out more about their commitments and results at www.act4nature.com

IV. Balance sheet analysis

In 2018, **65 signatory companies spanning** various sectors made commitments to implement tangible measures supporting biodiversity. These pioneering companies have paved the way and enabled their peers to draw inspiration and make progress in taking environmental and biodiversity issues into account in their strategy and activities.

Among the companies committed in 2018, some opted to transition from act4nature international to join Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature. Meanwhile, **41 companies renewed their commitments in 2020, resulting in a total of 67 participants**. These figures can be explained by the creation of the **Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature scheme in 2020**, managed by the OFB and dedicated to companies operating within a French scope of activity. This evolution has facilitated the internationalisation of the programme by extending the opportunity for multinational corporations to submit their commitments.

Within the cohort of companies committed to the scheme during the 2020-2022 period, it is worth noting that a total of **54 companies, or 92% of the 59 eligible (88% in 2020)**, have carried out an evaluation of the implementation of their commitments. Some companies departed from the scheme or underwent acquisitions during this timeframe⁷. This approach underscores their meticulous oversight of biodiversity preservation efforts and highlights their steadfast, long-term dedication in this domain.

The disparity between the number of companies involved in the program and those included in this report is explained by the deadlines of their commitments, extending as far as 2025 or even 2030. Initial outcomes of these commitments will be documented and evaluated in the forthcoming report, slated for publication in 2025.

a) Number of individual commitments

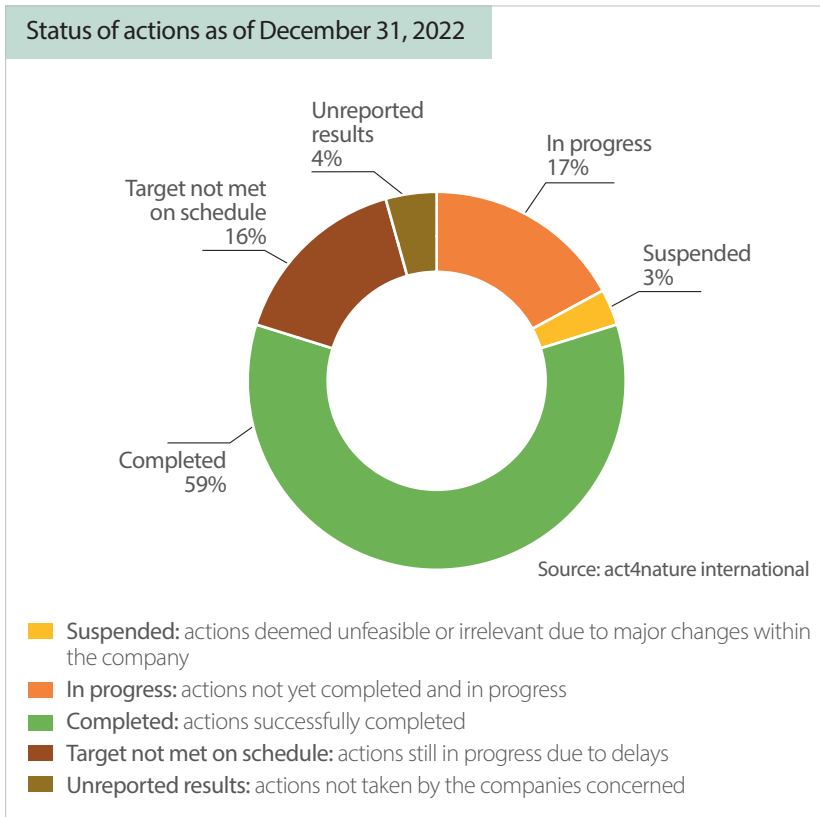
The report assessed a total of 318 commitments, averaging 6 commitments per company. It is important to stress that the nature and ambition of these commitments are tailored to the unique characteristics of each sector and the maturity level of the company. This diversity underscores the complexity of comparison and highlights the varied approaches adopted by companies to contribute to biodiversity conservation efforts.

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⁷ See section III. Companies involved in the 2020-2022 assessment.

b) Temporality of commitments

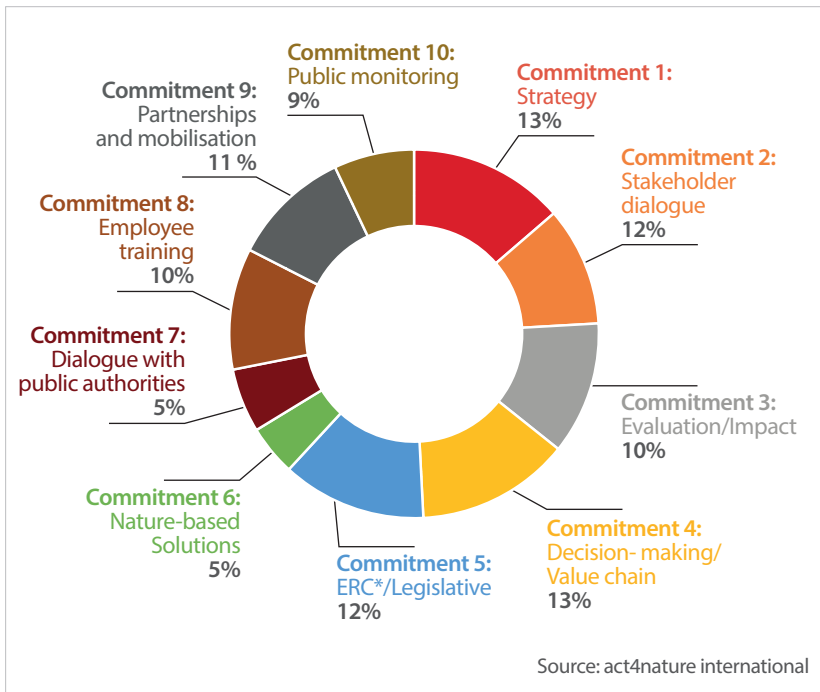
Out of the 318 commitments submitted for analysis by act4nature international, 69% have a clearly specified due date, while 31% are formulated as open-ended commitments without time restrictions. This marks a notable improvement, considering that 14% of the commitments assessed in the 2018-2020 review lacked an expiry date. This shift can be attributed to the strengthening of the scheme's admission criteria, which now exclusively accepts commitments formulated in accordance with the SMART model (Specific, Measurable, Additional, Realistic, Time-bound).

c) Meeting commitments



Within participating companies, individual commitments to biodiversity are manifested through concrete actions. Among the actions with a deadline of December 31, 2022, 59% have been successfully completed, while 17% are ongoing. Moreover, 16% of these actions are still in progress, primarily due to delays, largely attributed to the ongoing health crisis. Only 3% of commitments were suspended, deemed unfeasible, or irrelevant due to significant changes within the company (such as change of management or restructuring), and 4% of commitments were not pursued by the respective companies.

d) Themes of individual commitments successfully implemented



*ERC: Avoid, Reduce, Compensate.

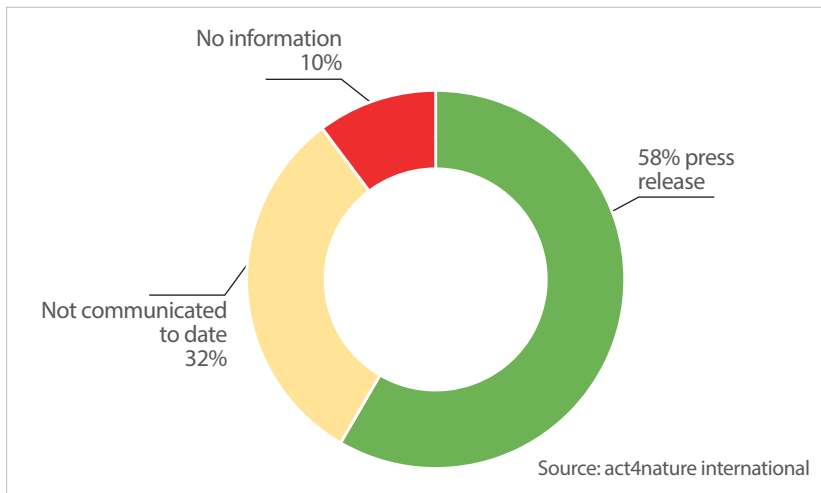
Each individual commitment may concern several themes.

All the themes of the **10 common commitments** defined in 2018 with **act4nature international**⁽⁸⁾ partners are represented in the 189 individual commitments completed, in a relatively balanced manner.

The themes centred on incorporating biodiversity into corporate strategy (**commitment 1**), integrating biodiversity into decisions throughout the value chain (**commitment 4**), as well as implementing the ERC sequence (Avoid, Reduce, Compensate) and achieving zero net loss of biodiversity (**commitment 5**), stand out as **the most frequently addressed by companies in their individual commitments**. These themes were the subject of around 70 actions each, underlining their importance in companies' efforts to preserve biodiversity.

The **least addressed areas** by companies include **common commitments 6, 7 and 10**, which focus respectively on **Nature-based Solutions** (as defined by the IUCN⁽⁹⁾), **biodiversity dialogues with stakeholders**, and interactions with public authorities. A total of 84 common commitments, reflecting the lower priority given to these aspects in companies' approaches to biodiversity.

e) Internal and/or external communication on the execution of commitments



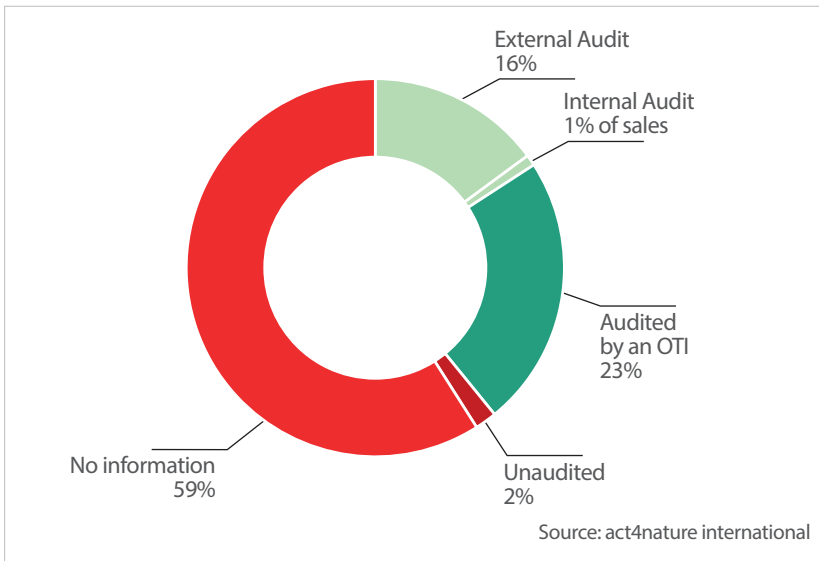
8 Appendix 3

9 <https://iucn.fr/solutions-fondees-sur-la-nature/>

Act4nature international's **tenth common commitment** specifies the need to "publicly report on the implementation of these commitments and voluntary individual action plans". However, only **58% of commitments have been the subject of communication regarding the information justifying their implementation by the companies, either internally or externally**. Corrective action is desirable.

In the previous balance sheet, **85% of commitments had been communicated**. This is likely due to the change in scope. The 2020-2022 review focuses exclusively on commitments due to expire during this period. For companies that have communicated their commitments, a variety of communication channels have been used, including websites, universal registration documents, or other types of reports.

f) Verification of commitments



A review of the information provided by the companies involved has been carried out. For 59% of commitments, this information has not been provided. This significant lack of information on the verification method makes it impossible to analyse and reliably identify the trends followed by companies in relation to the previous assessment.

However, information regarding the execution of 23% of commitments was audited by an **Independent Third-Party Organisation (ITPO)**. Audits conducted as part of the validation of extra-financial data can be implemented in various ways, including a sincerity review, analysis of the biodiversity policy, verification of one or more indicators, or multi-level verification.

It should also be noted that information relating to the implementation of **16% of commitments underwent other external verification methods**, notably through labels such as "Refuge LPO" and "BiodiverCity", and certifications such as Ecocert's "Engagement Biodiversité" and "RSPO". Additionally, an **internal inspection** was carried out by a dedicated team within certain companies for **2% of commitments**.



Conclusion

The results of this assessment are encouraging and confirm that act4nature international enables companies to translate their commitments into actions that are part of a continuous improvement process. Its deliberately simple and accessible format makes it easier for operational teams to get to grips with biodiversity issues and mobilises all employees, right up to senior management. Indeed, the cross-sectoral approach of the system allows each company to assess and steer its biodiversity strategy according to the material challenges of its business sector, and to adapt it to its financial and human resources.

An analysis of the 318 commitments due to expire between 2020 and 2022 demonstrates the cross-cutting nature of biodiversity issues. In fact, the diversity of approaches adopted by companies to assess and manage their strategy reflects the variety of biodiversity issues.

The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the implementation of the commitments made by the companies, but above all, to encourage them to continue their progress and to invite other companies to commit themselves.

While these results confirm the effectiveness and relevance of the act4nature international system, they also highlight the challenge companies face in communicating their achievements publicly and consistently, as well as verifying the implementation of their commitments. One way forward for the next assessment will therefore be to enhance the communication of results and to provide clarity on the verification process for the collected data.

The data collection methodology will be improved based on lessons learned from the first two editions.

The analysis of the results of the assessment is freely accessible on the act4nature international website, along with each of the grids filled in by the companies.

Appendix 1:

10 common commitments

- 1 Integrate biodiversity into our corporate strategy based on available scientific knowledge.
- 2 Dialogue with all our stakeholders on their expectations, our impacts, our actions and our progress.
- 3 Assess the various components of biodiversity that concern us, using indicators of direct and indirect impacts, risks and progress, and, where relevant for decision-making, economically evaluate our impacts and our dependence on the proper functioning of ecosystems.
- 4 Promote the progressive integration of biodiversity into decision-making throughout our value chains, from the production of natural raw materials to the end-of-life of products after use by consumers.
- 5 First avoid, then reduce and finally compensate for our impacts, aiming on a case- by-case basis for at least no net loss, or even a net gain, of biodiversity in our activities and geographical areas of influence, and taking into account the need for ecosystems to adapt to climate change.
- 6 Prioritize the development of Nature-based Solutions, ensuring that their implementation is conducted in a way that is both scientifically sound and beneficial to biodiversity, notably by promoting a certain variety in these solutions.
- 7 Integrate biodiversity into our dialogue with public authorities, so as to support the inclusion of this issue in public policies; when invited, contribute to the national biodiversity strategies of the countries in which we operate.
- 8 Raising awareness and training our employees in biodiversity and its relation to their jobs; promoting and encouraging their initiatives in favor of nature and giving recognition to these actions and practices.
- 9 Mobilize resources and establish appropriate partnerships to support and monitor our concrete actions.
- 10 Report publicly on the implementation of these commitments and our individual voluntary action plans.

Appendix 2: SMART criteria

- **Specific:** a set of actions of various kinds with direct or indirect links to biodiversity.
- **Measurable:** effective implementation can be tracked using direct and indirect impact, risk and progress indicators. It is also possible to identify, monitor and evaluate their effects on the state of biodiversity and on changes in stakeholder behavior.
- **Additional:** which goes beyond simple compliance with legislation and regulation, but can also be additional to policy the company's past and present activities. Which leads to positive, significant, material, direct or indirect effects on biodiversity, without negative effects.
- **Realistic:** consistent with all the activities of the signatory company, whether in terms of avoiding or reducing negative impacts or biodiversity-friendly measures. The objectives of these actions are defined in proportion to the size, resources and activities of the company.
- **Time-bound:** objectives and planned actions evolve over time and are part of a progressive ambition to improve performance ecological footprint. It's a real program, with an explicit duration and implementation dates.

Appendix 3: act4nature international partners

● Company networks



Network France



● Public body



● Environmental NGOs



● Scientific partners



Acknowledgements

This report was compiled by the act4nature international secretariat under the oversight of Afep, EpE, and MEDEF. We extend our gratitude to Nicolas Boquet, Afep's Director for Environment Climate and Energy; Sébastien Sureau, MEDEF's Head of Environment; Benoît Galaup, EpE's Biodiversity, Finance, and Digital Manager; Mona Rivet, EpE's Mission Officer for Biodiversity; Maud Liron; and Hélène Marotina, who successively managed act4nature international and coordinated the data collection from companies and the drafting of this report.

Afep, EpE and MEDEF would also like to thank act4nature international's partners and the participating companies for their invaluable contributions to the vitality of this initiative.

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Companies participating in act4nature international



As of February 1, 2024

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